

REMARKS

The claims in the application are 3-8, 14, 15, 17 and Claims 21-27 added by the present amendment.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to eliminate the formalities noted in paragraph 3 of the Office Action, with the claims amended to eliminate the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, raised in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Office Action. In this regard, Claims 21-27 introduced herein find clear, unequivocal support in the present application and drawings. It is noted dependent Claim 8 has not been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, in paragraph 4 of the Office Action.

The objection to the drawings raised in paragraph 2 of the Office Action is not understood, because the drawings were accepted for publication by the Patent and Trademark Office. In this regard, copies of the drawings accompanying Pub. No. US 2004/0251865 are enclosed for the Examiner's convenience. Please contact the undersigned attorney should there still be any questions in this regard.

A certified copy of priority German Utility Model No. 203 02 633.0 filed February 18, 2003, is enclosed. It is respectfully requested receipt of the certified copy of the priority document be acknowledged upon the next official communication from the Patent and Trademark Office.

Accordingly, the only outstanding issue is the prior art rejection of the claims.

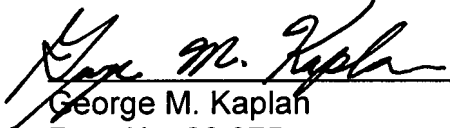
Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 11-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,988,553 to Astle in paragraph 6 of the Office Action. In this regard, Claims 5 and 10 have not been rejected over any art. Accordingly, Claim 5 has

been amended into independent form as the sole independent claim pending in the present application. The remaining claims have all been amended to depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 5.

Accordingly, in view of the forgoing amendment and accompanying remarks, it is respectfully submitted all claims pending herein are in condition for allowance. Please contact the undersigned attorney should there be any questions.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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